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B3 Cont

initiator for the polymerizable monomer starting materials present in amounts ranging from 0.1 to approximately 2 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the polymerizable monomer starting materials, (c) a surfactant in an amount of no greater than about 5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the microspheres, (d) a chain transfer agent in an amount sufficient to produce 30-98% of a solvent-soluble portion in the microspheres, and (e) optionally, a polymeric stabilizer in an amount of between about 0.1 and about 3 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the microspheres.

Please cancel claim 9.

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10.(Amended) The adhesive coated article according to claim 16 further comprising (g) at least one vinyl-unsaturated additive having both an ionic moiety and a hydrophobic moiety and containing at least 5 but not more than 40 carbon atoms in an amount of about 0.1 to 3 parts by weight of the microspheres.

Please add the following new claims.

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16.(New) An adhesive coated article comprising a substrate with a first and second major surface and a layer of microsphere adhesive on at least a portion of the first major surface of the substrate wherein the microsphere adhesive comprises (a) a plurality of polymeric, solid, elastomeric microspheres wherein the microspheres are the reaction product of starting materials comprising at least one C₄-C₁₄ alkyl (meth)acrylate ester monomer, (b) an initiator for the polymerizable monomer starting materials present in amounts ranging from 0.1 parts by weight to approximately 2 parts by weight per 100 part by weight of the polymerizable monomer starting materials, (c) a surfactant in an amount of no greater than about 5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the microspheres, (d) a chain transfer agent in an amount sufficient to produce from 30 % to 98 % of a solvent-soluble portion in the microspheres, (e) from 1 % by weight to 10 % by weight of an aqueous polyacrylamide, and (f) optionally, a polymeric stabilizer in an amount of between about 0.1 parts by weight and about 3 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the microspheres.

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17.(New) The adhesive coated article of claim 11, wherein said reactants further comprise chain transfer agent.

18.(New) The adhesive coated article of claim 11, wherein said reactants further comprise polymeric stabilizer.

19.(New) The adhesive coated article of claim 11, wherein said polymeric stabilizer is selected from the group consisting of carboxy modified polyacrylamides, polymeric quaternary amines, cellulosic, carboxy-modified cellulosics and combinations thereof.

20.(New) An adhesive coated article comprising a substrate with a first and second major surface and a layer of microsphere adhesive on at least a portion of the first major surface of the substrate, wherein the microsphere adhesive comprises (a) a plurality of hollow, polymeric, acrylate, inherently tacky, infusible, solvent-insoluble, solvent dispersible, pressure sensitive microspheres comprising at least about 85 parts by weight of at least one alkyl acrylate ester or alkyl methacrylate ester and up to 15 parts by weight at least one polar monomer, and (b) polyacrylamide, wherein a majority of the microspheres contain at least one interior void having a diameter at least 10 % of the diameter of the hollow microspheres.

Remarks

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that the Office action indicates that claims 1-15 are pending. However, claims 1-4 and 12-15 were cancelled pursuant to the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 22, 2001.

Page 3 of the Specification has been amended. A clean version of the new paragraphs of the Specification is attached at Tab 1. Support for the amendment to the Specification can be found, for example, in original claims 11 and 12, and in page 3, lines 3-14 (see, e.g., Delgado 5,045,569, col. 3, line 65-col. 4, line 9, which were incorporated by reference into Applicants' Specification). No new matter has been added.